

breeding programs without laborious testing against the harmful disease. We expect this to lead to new rust-resistant varieties in the next four to five years. These are just a few examples of how the soybean checkoff has helped me and other U.S. soybean farmers prevent or reduce soybean yield loss from harmful plant pests and diseases. No doubt, these efforts have helped U.S. soybean production grow from 1.98 billion bushels in 1991 to a record 3.18 billion bushels in 2006.

5. I know that soy products have been featured in the federal government's bioproducts support program. Are you aware of what soy products have been featured in this effort and if so, could you elaborate on how, if at all, national or state checkoff funds have been utilized to develop any of these products?

This is an area of special interest to me since I served three terms as chair of USB's New Uses program and one year as team lead of our Biobased Products Initiative. Our surveys show U.S. soybean farmers believe developing new soy uses, such as soy-based inks, plastics, lubricants, adhesives and solvents, should be a top priority of our checkoff. The most notable new industrial uses for soy developed by the soybean checkoff include soy biodiesel and soy ink. But hundreds of soy-based products, many developed with the help of soybean checkoff-funded research, now also fill our ever-growing Soy Products Guide, a catalog of soy-based bioproducts we publish annually. Recognizing the purchasing power of the federal government, the soybean checkoff has taken the lead in familiarizing federal purchasing officials with the availability and benefits of these products through workshops held in the nation's capital. Last year, USDA finalized its list of the first six categories of biobased items that would be awarded purchasing preference under the federal bioproducts support program. USB has funded research and marketing efforts with companies that make up three of the six categories, which include soy-based mobile hydraulic fluids, roof coatings and penetrating lubricants. Late last year, USDA proposed that more items be designated for preferred federal purchasing. When finalized, we anticipate that more soy-based bioproducts developed with the help of the soybean checkoff, such as spray foam insulation, carpet backing, electric transformer fluids, engine oils, cleaners and other solvents, will receive preferred purchasing designation.

6. The Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, as passed in 1990, called for regular ROI studies to evaluate the return to soybean farmers on their investment in the checkoff. Have those studies been undertaken, and if so, what were the results? If these studies do not reflect the additional funds that may have been leveraged through the use of checkoff funds, please expand on that point as well. In this same context, what evidence, if any, do you have that soybean farmers continue to support the checkoff?

Evaluation remains a cornerstone of every soybean checkoff-funded program. All USB-funded programs must have an evaluation component. As required by law, the soybean checkoff has also conducted regular return-on-investment (ROI) studies. An independent study, conducted in 1998 by Texas A&M, found that for every checkoff dollar invested, U.S. soybean farmers earned an additional eight dollars in net revenue. A similar study, conducted in 2003 by World Perspectives and AgriLogic, found a 6:1 ROI. USB's next regular ROI study will be conducted next year.

In addition to those noted above, numerous examples exist of how we maximize checkoff investments by achieving outside, matching

funds to benefit all U.S. soybean farmers. For example, state and national soybean checkoff international marketing investments, which this year total \$11.3 million, achieved a matching investment of \$14.2 million in Foreign Market Development and Market Access Program funds through USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. USB funding of the development of the soybean genome map and development of genetic markers helped lead to a nearly \$5 million dollar grant for soybean genomics research conducted by the National Science Foundation. Soybean checkoff-funded genome research also positioned soy to be chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy's Joint Genome Institute as the next plant genome to be sequenced, a project valued at \$11 million.

The federal law that created the soybean checkoff requires that U.S. soybean farmers have an opportunity every five years to request a referendum on continuation of the program. In 1999, less than 3 percent of eligible soybean producers requested a referendum on the soybean checkoff. In 2004, less than half of 1 percent of all eligible soybean producers requested a referendum. USB conducted its first statistically valid, biannual soybean farmer attitudes survey in 1997. At that time, 65 percent of soybean farmers surveyed indicated they supported the soybean checkoff. The most recent survey conducted earlier this year showed 73 percent of U.S. soybean farmers support the soybean checkoff.

7. And even though it is not directly related to the role of the United Soybean Board, what, if any, role has it played in the broader soybean or agricultural industry that members of Congress should know about?

The 64 farmer-directors who serve voluntarily on USB believe it's also our responsibility to help lead the U.S. soybean industry. Since 2002, USB has brought together state and national soybean checkoff and association leaders and staff for CONNECTIONS, a joint planning meeting to help establish our research and promotion priorities and strategies for the following three to five years. Last year, USB took the process a step further by engaging all players in the U.S. soybean value chain to actively take part in Soy 2020. This U.S. soybean industry-wide effort created a vision for the future of U.S. soybeans for the next twelve years. It focuses on four key stages: a comprehensive environmental scan that identified key areas of emphasis; analysis of different possible scenarios for the U.S. soybean industry; development of the vision and strategies to support each scenario; and a formal launch, which took place earlier this year.

Aside from this formal joint planning meeting, the farmer-directors of USB have also committed to a leading cause in U.S. agriculture—supporting the livestock and poultry industries. The animal agriculture industry is inherently important to the soybean industry, as it is our number one customer, consuming nearly all of the domestically used soybean meal. The USB-led Animal Agriculture Initiative is an effort to build support among soybean farmers and leading agriculture organizations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Animal Agriculture Alliance, and other checkoff organizations such as the National Pork Board. This combined, concentrated support will not only help protect the domestic livestock and poultry industries from unnecessary criticism and ridicule, but will also help protect our number one market for soybean meal.

I am confident this information will help you and other members of Congress understand how our self-help research and promotion program has created new U.S. soy-

bean demand and profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information for you and your colleagues.

The 64 volunteer soybean farmer-leaders who make up our board truly believe we have an effective, efficient and farmer-driven soybean checkoff.

Respectfully yours,
ERIC NIEMANN,
Chairman, United Soybean Board (USB).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

June 5, 2007:

Rollcall vote 426, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 397—Condemning violence in Estonia and attacks on Estonia's embassies in 2007, and expressing solidarity with the Government and the people of Estonia, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 427, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 422—Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 428, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 430—Calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to immediately release Dr. Haleh Esfandiari, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 429, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H. Res. 451—Directing the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to respond to the indictment of, or the filing of charges of criminal conduct in a court of the United States or any State against, any Member of the House of Representatives by empaneling an investigative subcommittee to review the allegations, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall vote 430, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Resolution H. Res. 452—Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATIONS, AMERICAN
LEGION AUXILIARY OF
SIKESTON, MISSOURI

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary of Sikeston, Missouri, which this year celebrates its 80th anniversary. Every year in the eight decades of the American Legion's existence in Sikeston, this group of patriotic Americans annually makes multiple investments of time, talent and treasure in our southern Missouri community.